Violence against particular Minority Community

†516. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of violence against a particular minority community took place in some of the States in the country especially in Orissa and in certain parts of Southern India during September, 2008;

(b) whether the Minister has visited the violence affected areas;

(c) if so, the reasons for incidents of violence against this specific community in these areas; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to check the illegal activities of persons involved in these incidents so that the feeling of insecurity in the said specific community can be allayed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per available information, incidents of violence against members of the Christian community were reported from Orissa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu during September 2008.

(b) The Union Home Minister visited the State of Orissa on 3.9.2008 and Karnataka on 4.10.2008 and reviewed the law & order situation there. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal also visited the State of Orissa on 27.8.2008.

(c) As per information received from Government of Orissa, there incidents of communal violence broke out in the State, particularly in the Kandhamal District, in the wake of the killing of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati a VHP leader and four others, on 23.8.2008. Incidents in the other States also, *prima face* appear to have occurred in the wake of the situation and development in Orissa.

(d) "Public Order" and "Police" being State subjects as per the Constitution of India, the State Governments are primarily responsible for maintenance of law and order, and for maintaining peace and harmony.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had remained in continuous and close touch with the State Governments of Orissa and Karnataka ever since incidents of communal violence were reported in these States. In addition, 7 advisories/ communications were sent to the Government of Orissa between 25.8.2008 and 10.10.2008 at various levels, including the Home Secretary and the Union Home Minister; and 4 advisories/ communications were sent to the Government of Karnataka between 15 September and 15 October 2008. In these advisories/communications, the State Government of Orissa was asked/ directed to take stringent action against the persons indulging in communal violence, including identification and apprehension of the elements inciting and stoking communal violence/ hatred; ensure arrangements to provide security to members of the minority community and their places of worship, etc; undertake comprehensive measures for relief and rehabilitation of the victims and other affected persons, including measures for reconstruction/repair

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

of the residential and other structures that were burnt/damaged during the violence; and, take effective steps to create an environment in which people who had to leave their homes could return at the earliest. Similarly, in the case of Karnataka, the State Government was asked/directed to take immediate steps to stop violence targeted against the minority community and their places of worship, to provide protection against such attacks to apprehend and take stringent action to bring to justice all those indulging in or inciting communal violence or hatred and to ensure that an atmosphere of security is created in the affected areas. An advisory on similar lines was also sent to Government of Kerala on 19.9.2008.

Bangladeshis living illegally in India

517. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Indo-Bangla border is the most porous and maximum intrusions take place *via* this route, which poses a very big security challenge to our country;

(b) the approximate number of Bangladeshis now living in India illegally;

(c) how many such people have since been deported to Bangladesh; and

(d) the action plan of Government to control the magnitude of the danger which is being posed by such elements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the presence of illegal Bangladeshi migrants in various parts of the Country. Since, they enter clandestinely and also mingle with the local population quite easily due to ethnic, linguistic and cultural similarities, exact and realistic estimates about their numbers are not available.

(c) Central Government is vested with the powers to deport foreign nationals under section 3 (2) (c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946. These powers to identify and deport illegally staying foreign nationals have also been delegated to the State Governments/UT Administrations. Administrative instructions are also issued to the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time to detect and deport illegally staying foreign nationals in the country. As per the information available, the details of deportation of Bangladeshi Nationals during the years 2005-2007 are as follows:

Year	No. of Bangladeshis deported
2005	14,916
2006	13,692
2007	12,135

(d) The Government of India have adopted a multi-pronged approach to contain infiltration from across the borders which, *inter-alia,* includes round the clock surveillance & patrolling on the borders and establishment of observation posts, construction of border fencing & floodlighting, introduction of modern & hi-tech surveillance equipments, upgradation of intelligence set up and coordination with the State Government & concerned intelligence agencies.